

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## Urgent and Important Public Comment

The U.S. government proposes having zero restrictions on *Genetically Modified Organism* (GMO) seed use. The public has just 45-days to comment on the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE's (USDA) report, published as part of the *GMO deregulation* process. THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, EARTH JUSTICE and environmental groups threaten legal action if the current U.S. restrictions are lifted.

The ENLIST brand of next-generation GMO's are resistant to DOW AGROSCIENCE DOW 2, 4-D, used in *Agent Orange*. These new corn and soybean seeds were approved in CANADA. They will be marketed in 2015, pending approval by various agencies.

(Source: January 6, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "Government Proposes Deregulation of Corn, Soybean Seeds" by M.L. Johnson, the Associated Press MILWAUKEE)

## The GMO Treadmill

According to chemist *Bill Freese*, with the CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, AMERICA's agricultural problem is that weeds have become immune to MONSANTO's ROUNDUP and GLYPHOSATE and the ENLIST GMO seeds will evolve superweeds with out-of-hand immunity to DOW 2, 4-D. The solution is for AMERICA to return to doing what all farmers did prior to 1976, *tilling* weeds under to kill them naturally. Returning again to loving the soil by tilling weeds under is what some growers are actually doing because love is more powerful than all the money printed by Man. Love is the force that drives humankind.

Big agriculture's chemical dependence upon toxic substances is the opposite of love, Hating the environment and human health does nothing but consume Agrochemical manufacturers. Until Man returns to loving the air, soil, and water of the planet, that *Great Mother* of us all, where is joy. Making the eco-system unhappy, is bitter karma.

(Source: January 6, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "Government Proposes Deregulation of Corn, Soybean Seeds" by M.L. Johnson, the Associated Press MILWAUKEE)

## Peru Has Zero Tolerance for GMO Perjury

In PERU, the *Peruvian Association of Consumers and Users* studied the country's full disclosure requirement for GMO's, and found it was being ignored by MONSANTO and others. Therefore the *Peruvian Congress* banned any products containing GMO's, because of the violation of their consumers' right to information.

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According to IN GOOD TILTH magazine, *Just Label It* applauds U.S. Senator Mikulski for co-sponsoring the federal GMO labeling bill introduced last spring by U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D—CA) and U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), that is in committee.

(Source: Fall 2013, volume 24, Number 3, IN GOOD TILTH, "Monsanto Protection Act Excluded in Continuing Resolution"; [www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org); [www.justlabelit.org](http://www.justlabelit.org); December 2013, VEGNEWS, "VegNOW A Movement of Global Influence")

#### Urgent and Important

A House-Senate conference committee is now negotiating the final FARM BILL. The version of the FARM BILL that the House of Representatives passed included the *King Amendment*, an attack against liberty of local and states' rights.

Republican Steve King is from IOWA, the GMO corn belt, threatens a wide range of local and state legal measures, including child labor safeguards, the environment, and food production and safety. It reeks of federally sanctioned animal confinement crates, dog meat, horse slaughter, puppy mills, and shark finning.

The Humane Society of the United States pleads for you to contact your U.S. Representative and two of your U.S. Senators today, at 202.224.3121 to ask them to oppose the King amendment. If local and state food production laws are outlawed, then all food measures become federal domain. For more information, and to take online action, visit [www.humanesociety.org/king](http://www.humanesociety.org/king).

(Source: December 2013, VEGNEWS, "Don't Let Them Wipe Out Animal Protection Laws" by the Humane Society of the United States)

#### 2013 in Review

The four major international crimes are animal and plant trafficking, arms and weapons trafficking, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. In 2013 President Obama launched the *Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking* against animal trafficking in AFRICA, ASIA, and TANZANIA.

In AMERICA, Albuquerque, NEW MEXICO and the cities of Burbank, North Hollywood, and San Diego, CALIFORNIA prohibited the commercial sale of cats and dogs. Pet stores in those cities only conduct animal adoptions. West Hollywood, CALIFORNIA, banned animal fur sales.

In AMERICA, The cities of Oakland, CALIFORNIA, and Aspen, COLORADO, passed Meatless Mondays resolutions, urging local businesses, grocery stores, restaurants, and schools to start the week by offering plant foods on Mondays.

In AMERICA, CALIFORNIA's LA Unified School District banned chocolate milk and implemented meatless Mondays. CALIFORNIA's Oakland Unified School District and San Diego Unified School District also implemented meatless Mondays. Flushing, NEW YORK's Active Learning Elementary School implemented a 100% vegetarian cafeteria.

In AMERICA, Governor Cuomo signed legislation banning the sale and trade of shark fins in NEW YORK, joining CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, ILLINOIS, MARYLAND, OREGON, DELAWARE, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, and all the PACIFIC U.S. TERRITORIES.

In AUSTRALIA, the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council suspended export trade of live cattle by abattoirs from EGYPT because cattle delivered to THE MIDDLE EAST are slashed while conscious.

Circus animals are disallowed in BOLIVIA, COLUMBIA, EQUADOR, PARAGUAY, and PERU. In the BRITISH ISLES, the Parliament unanimously banned wild animal acts in ENGLAND and WALES.

In CHINA, the largest producer of bear bile extract, Guizhentang Pharmaceutical, withdrew application to triple its stock of captive bears.

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In INDIA, the *Ministry of Environment and Forests* banned the keeping of captive dolphins for public entertainment.

In MEXICO, *Sonora* banned bullfighting.

In the PHILLIPPINES and VIETNAM, their national airlines stopped transporting primates to laboratories.

In RUSSIA, a draft law was entered to ban hunting except by certified rangers and indigenous people in remote areas. A psychological evaluation of applicants for hunting permits will be required, and poaching will be punished by five-years in prison.

(Source: December 2013, VEGNEWS, "*VegNOW A Movement of Global Influence*" and "*Plant-Based Public Schools*"

#### INDIA, ISRAEL, and the EUROPEAN UNION

INDIA and ISRAEL ban the import and sale of cosmetics containing ingredients tested on animals. Last year the EUROPEAN UNION (EU) also banned sales of all animal-tested cosmetics in EUROPE, under EUROPE's REACH chemical legislation.

It's estimated that 13,000 innocent sentient creatures of the EARTH suffered painful procedures before they died as animal sacrifices, in order for a single chemical to be brought to market. Over four million distinct chemical compounds have been formulated since 1965. At least 250,000 new formulations are created yearly. Approximately 3,000 chemicals are added to foods. 700 chemicals have been found in drinking water. More than 500 chemicals on average can be found in American homes. There are 800 neurotoxin chemical compounds have been used in the cosmetic and perfume industries.

(Sources: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*The Latest Research Ethics*" by Kristie Sullivan, M.P.H.; December 2013, VEGNEWS, "*A Movement of Global Influence*"; 2009 SOUND CONCEPTS, "*Rub a Dub, Dub, Know What's In Your Tub*")

#### New Research Ethics

Researchers at NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, in the UNITED KINGDOM, developed a new test called SKIMUNE that uses human immune and skin cells.

And in EUROPE, CEE TOX developed SENCEETOX testing that utilizes reconstructed human epidermis for COSMETICS EUROPE to submit ECVAM, the lab in EUROPE that validates new testing.

(Source: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*The Latest Research Ethics*" by Kristie Sullivan, M.P.H.)

#### New International Guidelines

The *International Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development* (OECD) has published six new IN-VITRO HUMAN CELL TESTING guidelines for multinational Corporations and world governments to use in assessing chemical hazards without using any more animal sacrificing.

The *Work Plan for the Test Guidelines Programme* has been published, giving a glimpse of what's ahead for IN-VITRO HUMAN CELL TESTING to assess skin allergenicity, endocrine disruption, and metabolism of chemicals. In order for cosmetic companies to certify a chemical does *not* cause eye or skin irritation, or skin corrosion, use of the BCOP and ICE tests were expanded.

Kristie Sullivan M.P.H. is the Director of *Regulatory Testing* for the *Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine* (PCRM), which serves as the Secretariat for the *International Council for Animal Protection*, which is part of the OECD.

(Source: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*The Latest Research Ethics*" by Kristie Sullivan, M.P.H.)

### Animals and the Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released five new policies to reduce animal testing. Rather than conduct new animal tests, three of the policies optimize existing animal testing data. The other two policies use IN-VITRO HUMAN CELL TESTING to assess eye irritation and genotoxicity.

Kristie Sullivan headed the group that made recommendation to the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, encouraging the EPA's *Office of Pesticide Programs* to replace animal tests with HUMAN IN-VITRO testing, to determine pesticide toxicity.

For example, the PCRM's *Department of Toxicology and Regulatory Testing* scientists stopped an animal study request to test a pesticide already known to be toxic, because the PCRM *Policy Coordinator* for regulatory testing found four existing studies had already proven TRIPHENYLITIN HYDROXIDE (TPTH) is known toxicity.

Based on the toxicity evidence that is already known, the EPA was encouraged to waive a fifth proposed animal study. The EPA's *Hazard and Science Policy Council* concluded that the requirement for the study was already satisfied, based on the data submitted by the PCRM. Forty rats were spared from dosages of TPTH for 28 days without pain relief, before the rats would be killed.

Instead of animal sacrifices, human relevant will be promoted. The EPA asked the chemical companies that manufacture the toxic TPTH, to conduct a HUMAN immune system test for TPTH toxicity.

The TPTH chemical fungicide is currently used as mildew control on beets, potatoes, and other food, in order to stop insects from eating crops.

(Source: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*Physicians Committee Recommendations lead to Improved Pesticide Testing*", "*The Latest Research Ethics*" by Kristie Sullivan, M.P.H., and "*PCRM Scientists Spare Animals from Pesticide Test*"; [www.PCRM.org/Pesticides](http://www.PCRM.org/Pesticides))

### The Military Medical School

PCRM's *Director of Academic Affairs*, John Pippin M.D. , filed a petition with the DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, and has received an email response from Dean John McManigle, M.D., F.A.C.P. agreeing to stop using animals to train medical students at AMERICA's only military medical school, the UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES (USUHS).

(Source: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*Decades-Long Campaign Ends Animal Use at Military Medical School*"; [www.PCRM.org/Action](http://www.PCRM.org/Action))

### Medical Ethics

The INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE reported animal testing is unnecessary for disease research. Therefore the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH's (NIH) funding for invasive experiments on both federally or privately owned chimpanzees shall be phased out in favor of government funding being redirected to human experimentation, including "*organ-on-a-chip technology*", population studies, and stem cells.

The NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) Director, Francis Collins, M. D. is retiring Chimpanzees from NIH-Supported Research, and the U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE proposes to classify captive chimpanzees as endangered under the ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. Nearly all federally owned laboratory chimpanzees may be retired to sanctuaries.

(Source: Autumn 2013 GOOD MEDICINE, "*NIH Moves to Retire Most Government-Owned Chimpanzees*")

### Medical Schools in Transition

The PCRM monitors medical school programs. Doctors *Marie Crandall*, M.D. and *John Pippin*, M.D. filed complaint with the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE when SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY's *School of Medicine* began using live pigs in its emergency medicine residency program, because of the University's violation of the federal ANIMAL WELFARE ACT. Dean Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D. received 25,000 e-mails asking him to stop using pigs in the program.

Only four medical schools In AMERICA, still use live animals while transitioning, THE OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY is one of the four. The other three are JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, and THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE at CHATTANOOGA.

To obtain results, the PCRM first sends letters explaining the benefits of replacing animal use. Next the PCRM requests the oversight body deny the use of animals, as required by the federal ANIMAL WELFARE ACT (AWA). Then the PCRM files a complaint with the U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE's (USDA) *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* (APHIS) to request an inspection for noncompliance.

(Source: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*Doctors Urge Illinois Medical School to Keep Medical Training Modern*"; [www.PCRM.org/SIU](http://www.PCRM.org/SIU))

### Employee Wellness

Dieticians are working with cafeteria managers to create healthier grab-and-go lunches for quick meals from workplace cafeterias. To learn more about the PCRM's *Employee Wellness Program* visit [www.pcrm.org/wellness](http://www.pcrm.org/wellness). One may prefer a plant-based diet because of data that was gathered by the NURSE'S HEALTH STUDY, the NURSE'S HEALTH STUDY II, and analyzed by the HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOLLOW-UP.

You might want to visit [www.milkcausesprostatecancer.org](http://www.milkcausesprostatecancer.org) because if you consume zero dairy servings, your prostate cancer risk drops 60 percent lower than men who consume two servings a day of dairy products. You might also want to know the JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, published a large study disclosing that fish and fish oil increase men's risk of developing prostate cancer. It's easy to skip dairy and fish, is it not.

You may not know if poultry is appetizing, either, after five contaminants were disclosed in the *Chicken Products Report*. The PCRM used the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT to obtain a U.S.DA training video, showing how bird carcasses soak in fecal soup for up to an hour before being packaged. I wouldn't tell you the chicken soak in fecal bacteria, toxic chemicals, carcinogens, cholesterol, and superbugs because you might vomit chicken if you knew. Some people feel queasy knowing the chicken slaughter process. But education is key to being a smarter consumer. Sooner or later you may want to prove it to yourself by visiting [www.feca/Sour.org](http://www.feca/Sour.org).

A person may skip meat also, because THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY correlates red and processed meats to colorectal cancer deaths. The AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA) published that eating just a daily half serving too much of red meat nearly doubles type 2 diabetes risk. It's easy to decrease risk by eating a plant-based diet. Peace begins on your plate. The war planet could become the beautiful Land of love and Light by valuing compassion over killing.

(Sources: Autumn 2013, GOOD MEDICINE, "*Red Meat Increases Diabetes Risk*" by Susan Levin M.S., R.D. AND "pcrm'S New GEICO Study Shows How Plant-Based Diets Improve Nutrition" ; 2013, 173:1328-1335, JAMA INTERN MED, "Changes in red meat consumption and subsequent risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus" by Pan A. Sun Q, Bernstein AM, Manson Je, Willett WC, and Hu FB; 2013, 31:2773-2782, J CLIN ONCOLOGY, "Association between red and processed meat intake and mortality among colorectal cancer survivors", by McCullough ML, Capstur SM, Shah R. Jacobs EJ, and Campbell PT; 2013, 105:1132-1141, J NATL CANCER INST, "Plasma phospholipid fatty acids and prostate cancer risk in the SELECT Trial" by Brasky TM, Darke AK, Song X, et al )

### Egypt's Bread Basket

EGYPT stockpiles wheat, not nukes. In 2013, EGYPT was the world's largest wheat importer. It decided to stockpile wheat for its national bread-subsidy program. ALGERIA and MIDDLE EASTERN countries also scooped up wheat from AMERICA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, and RUSSIA, the countries with big wheat harvests.

(Source: January 7, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Big Buyers Boost outlook for Wheat" by Neena Rai and Reem Abdell Atif)

### Cruise Ships

The *Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA) figures an average-sized cruise ship traveling between ALASKA and Vancouver, B.C. daily, emits the same amount of sulfur dioxide as 13.1 million cars. The same average cruise ship also emits as much soot as a million cars, and discharges into the ocean 200,000 gallons of sewage per week, plus a million gallons of gray water—all of which is polluted and not treated much at all. Cruise ships also contribute to high rates of respiratory diseases in towns near seaports because the ships pollute the air also.

The entire cruise ship industry discharges into the ocean about one billion gallons of sewage each year, plus nine billion gallons of gray water.

The greenest cruise vacation possible would be aboard the *Disney Cruise Line*. It has the top rankings of all the cruise lines.

(Source: Fall 2013, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, "Making the Grade" by Marcie Keever; [www.foe.org/carnival-action](http://www.foe.org/carnival-action) )

### Know What You Cherish

If you have been on the side of acquisition and consumption, I invite you to step out of the victim role and stop disempowering yourself by being at the effect of someone or something outside yourself. Man may take responsibility by becoming inquisitive about the protocol of cherishing the EARTH upon which one is wholly borne.

### Pop Quiz

When you flush the toilet, where do the solids go?

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